SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

Please amend the title of the invention on page 1 as follows:

"An electric discharge lamp with halide resistant conductor"

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21 as follows:

"A disadvantage of the electric discharge lamp known from the cited patent publication is that if said first part of the first current conductor is made of pentamolybdenum trisilicide, microcracks may occur in this material when it is sintered, particularly at high temperatures and/or densities. These microcracks limit the mechanical strength of the first current conductor and/or may partly "absorb" the [[ionisable]] ionizable filling in the discharge vessel. Furthermore, the microcracks introduce porosity, which may result in leakage, as indicated above.""

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 3 as follows:

"In another preferred embodiment of an electric discharge lamp according to the invention, said material adheres to the ceramic material of the discharge vessel at the manufacturing temperature of the lamp. This allows a very compact lamp construction for the following reasons. The prior art lamp as described in the cited patent publication makes use of a sealing compound for sealing the ceramic discharge vessel around the current conductors. As the sealing compound is sensitive to high (operating) temperatures of the lamp, the sealing compound is applied as remote as possible from a central part of the discharge vessel, i.e. at a free end of projecting plugs (i.e. elongated end parts) that are connected to the central part of the discharge vessel by means of sintering. The use of said projecting plugs also has some drawbacks from the point of view of lamp design and operation. Said plugs function as cooling fins, thereby influencing the operating temperature in the discharge vessel during lamp operation, thus imposing restrictions in designing a lamp. Besides, capillaries are introduced in said projecting plugs, into which part of the lamp filling will distil, which may result in color

instability of the lamp. In the present preferred embodiment, the claimed material $Y_pSi_3X_q$, wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C, with $4 \leq p \leq 5$ and $0 < q \leq 1$, being substantially singe-phase, is co-sintered to the ceramic discharge vessel at a manufacturing temperature varying between 1500 and 2000 °C. The use of a separate sealing compound is thus excluded, and the use of projecting plugs as part of the discharge vessel can be avoided as well. In the preferred embodiment full advantage is taken of the close matching of the thermal expansion of the ceramic material of the discharge vessel and that of the current conductor material. The present preferred embodiment enables a very compact lamp construction to be achieved, while obviating the prior art disadvantages discussed above."